

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 10635 150905Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /056 W

-----064806 150957Z /23

R 150810Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9386

INFO COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: CONSERVATIVES GAIN SHARPLY IN TOKYO ASSEMBLY

REF: TOKYO 10425

SUMMARY. AGAINST BACKDROP OF LACK OF CLEAR TRENDS IN VOTING PATTERNS IN UPPER HOUSE ELECTION, TOKYO MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION HELD CONCURRENTLY APPEARED TO OFFER SOMEWHAT BETTER EVIDENCE OF CHECK IN DECLINE OF CONSERVATIVE FORTUNES AND MOVE TOWARDS CENTER. TO BE SURE, TOKYO CANNOT SPEAK FOR ALL OF JAPAN, BUT IT IS OF INTEREST THAT LDP GAINED A BIT; SOCIALISTS (JSP) AND COMMUNISTS (JCP) LOST 5 PERCENT AND 6 PERCENT OF VOTE RESPECTIVELY; AND NEW LIBERAL CLUB (NLC) TOOK 10 PERCENT OF VOTE ITS FIRST TIME OUT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ABSENCE OF CLEAR-CUT TRENDS IN RECENTLY CONCLUDED UPPER HOUSE ELECTION, SWING TO CONSERVATIVES IN CONCURRENT ELECTION FOR 126-MAN TOKYO MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION. FORMER RULING COALITION OF CGP, JSP AND JCP LOST SIXTEEN OF 70 SEATS WON IN 1973, PLUS NEW SEAT CREATED IN INTERIM, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 10635 150905Z

TO PREVIOUS OPPOSITION GROUPING OF LDP, NLC, DSP AND INDEPENDENTS, WHICH NOW HOLDS 72 SEATS. HARDEST HIT WAS JCP WHICH LOST 13 OF ITS 24 SEATS. JSP WAS DOWN 2 AND CGP DOWN 1. BIGGEST GAINER WAS YOHEI KONO'S NLC, WHICH WON 10 SEATS IN ITS FIRST TIME OUT. LDP PICKED UP 5 SEATS AND DSP AND INDEPENDENT 1 EACH. SIGNIFICANTLY, NLC WIN GIVES THEM CASTING VOTE IN NEW ASSEMBLY.

2. IN POPULAR VOTE, LDP CONTINUED ITS GRADUAL INCREASE, UP 2 PERCENT FROM PREVIOUS ELECTION. JSP CONTINUED ITS SHARP DESCENT, LOSING ABOUT 5 PERCENT AS IT ALSO DID FOUR YEARS EARLIER. CGP DROPPED 3 PERCENT FROM ITS BASE IN PREVIOUS TWO ELECTIONS. DSP, SMALLER PARTIES AND INDEPENDENTS REMAINED ROUGHLY SAME. NLC TOOK 10 PERCENT OF VOTE, BUT WHAT ATTRACTED MOST NOTICE WAS JCP REVERSE. PARTY SPURTED 6 PERCENT LAST TIME, ONLY TO LOSE SAME PERCENTAGE THIS TIME. RESULTS SUGGEST THAT SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF COMMUNIST VOTE MAY HAVE BEEN PROTEST VOTE WITH THIN OR NON-EXISTENT IDEOLOGICAL BASE, AND THAT THIS RELATIVELY UNCOMMITTED BLOC FOUND A HOME WITH NLC.

3. AS USUAL, LOCAL FACTORS WERE ALSO AT WORK. FACING NLC CHALLENGERS FOR FIRST TIME, LDP WAS WORKING FLAT OUT NOT ONLY FOR ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES, BUT TO ASSURE UPPER HOUSE LOCAL CONSTITUENCY VICTORY. BUSINESS COMMUNITY WAS UNUSUALLY INTERESTED IN ELECTION, SINCE LEFTIST TOKYO GOVERNOR MINOBE HAS SCHEDULED NEW TAXES FOR NEXT YEAR AIMED AT BIG BUSINESS AS WAY OF REDUCING HIS SUBSTANTIAL BUDGET DEFICIT. FINALLY, MINOBE'S PREVIOUS SUBSTANTIAL POPULARITY IS DECLINING STEADILY AS BUDGET PINCH PREVENTS START OF NEW WELFARE PROGRAMS.

4. ASSEMBLY OUTCOME HAS GREATLY ENCOURAGED LDP AND WAS PARTICULAR BRIGHT SPOT FOR NLC IN ITS INITIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 10635 150905Z

MUNICIPAL ELECTION APPEARANCE. IT WAS OCCASION FOR REAL WORRY ON PART OF JSP, COMPOUNDING PARTY'S UPPER HOUSE ELECTION GLOOM. RESULTS ALSO CALL INTO QUESTION JCP ABILITY TO MOVE BEYOND ITS NORMAL ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT BASE IN THIS CITY, WHICH INCLUDES ONE-TENTH OF NATION'S POPULATION. ALL IN ALL, OUTCOME PROVIDED COMFORT FOR CONSERVATIVES IN FUN CITY EAST, WHERE THEY HAD NOT BEEN HAVING ALL THAT MUCH FUN OF LATE.
MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, UPPER HOUSE, POLITICAL PARTIES
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO10635
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770252-0459
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770751/aaaabrwn.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4b30c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TOKYO 10425
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1843112
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSERVATIVES GAIN SHARPLY IN TOKYO ASSEMBLY
TAGS: PINT, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4b30c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009